

Dear FCC-

I am strongly opposed to the proposed rule changes to allow more concentrated media ownership.

Why do big media companies need to become bigger? There is no good reason. Small media companies are perfectly viable, and indeed the strength of American business is in smaller companies. Serving their interest is not the same as serving the common good.

On the other hand, the dangers to freedom in America from this proposed policy are obvious. The media is the indispensable fourth arm of government, shining light on issues that affect the common good and holding the feet of government to the fire. More centralized ownership will gradually strangle the kind of investigative reporting and local news focus that serves the citizen, as it already has in too many communities.

If antitrust law is good for the economic system because it preserves competition among corporate interests, how much more valuable is the competition between media organizations, which not only keeps their economic competition sound, but also safeguards the very freedoms that our political system rests on?

-Burk Braun